in Badminton, Yashin Merchant in Snooker, Geet Sethi and Ashok Shandilya in Billiards and women weightlifters have given excellent performance at international level. Mrs. K. Malleswari won bronze medal in Olympic Games-2000. Indian junior hockey team has won World Cup recently and performance of our kabaddi team has also been excellent in the recent past.

(d) The promotion of any sport is primarily the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation-All India Football Federation (AIFF), in this case. The Government, however, supplements the efforts of National sports Federations by providing assistance under its various schemes for international exposure, holding of national/international tournaments, coaching/training of national teams under Indian and foreign coaches, procuring sports equipment and providing requisite scientific and technical back up.

Lower Ranking of Indian Football

†439. SHRl JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for poor performance of India in football and for which India ranks nowhere in the world in football, whereas the climate and geographical situation is conducive for this sport;

(b) whether Government are formulating any fresh scheme for generating attraction, interest and motivation for football among the Indian youths; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefoe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRl P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) As per current FIFA ranking, India is placedat 123rd rank among 203 football playing nations. As per information received from All India Football Federation (AIFF), FIFA ranking depends on the number of international matches declared by FIFA as International "A" match, a national team plays in a competitive manner from time to time. Indian team's international exposure is not sufficient and that is why ranking is low.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) It is for AIFF to prepare schemes for promotion of the game of football. AIFF has stated that a long-term project for 2010 World Cup will be submitted by it to FIFA to have professional training exposure and talent spotting.

(c) Does not arise.

Sports hostels in U.P.

440. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many sports hostels are being run in U.P. and at which places;

(b) whether any performance appraisal in respect of these hostels was done;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken to rectify the shortcomings, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is running in all 7 Sports Hostels/Sports Training Centres (STC) in Uttar Pradesh. Those are located one each at Rai Bareilly, Etawah, Allahabad, Agra, Jhansi and two in Lucknow.

(b) and (c) Continuous performance appraisal of the trainees who are admitted in the centre/hostels is done and if they are found lacking in performance they are informed and also helped to improve. Teh final analysis of the progresss of the trainees is done by the Coaches and the Sports Scientists.

(d) The trainees who are not found up to the mark are weeded out and new trainees are inducted. Any other corrective measures required to be taken are also taken up for the smooth running of the hostels.